*How the Internet has affected privacy*

The section I covered for the group presentation was privacy and how the internet has affected it whether it’s sending personal pictures over the internet to hackers trying to gain access to certain profiles in order to retrieve information about a person.

(How I went about it, what websites i got info from etc.)

The internet boom which happened during the late 1990's saw the use of the public internet grew by an estimated 100% per year. As more resources became available to people via the internet, their own personal privacy shrunk dramatically.

The introduction of online banking is one of the major threats to personal privacy, as in order to hold an online banking account, your name, bank account number, home address, e-mail address and contact number all have to be filled out on an online registration form. Although the online banking structure is protected very securely by other companies that specialise against anti-fraud and hacking, many hackers still believe that they can get by the security and into your own personal account where they can view all your personal and banking information.

Another place where many hackers tend to focus their attention is trying to get into some people e-mail, where they can then find other relevant information that may be in your inbox, such as private pictures, bank account details, work details etc. It is quite difficult for someone to simply get into your e-mail account, but there have been cases in public internet cafés where people have simply forgot to log out of their e-mail account and the person that uses that computer after them, can gain access to the account.

Nowadays, 92.8% of children aged between 12 and 18 have regular internet access in their own homes; with 56% of these teenagers have access to this internet alone in their room. The increases of internet access for young teenagers in a separate room or their bedroom have raised concerns over the risks and their own personal privacy. Children are more likely to share personal information across the internet to another person as they are not fully aware of the risks that come with this. In a recent study, 70% of children seen no harm in sending their home address or e-mail across the internet to someone else. 12.7% of 10-12 year olds report to sending pictures to others across the internet.

There is a growing concern among parents who’s children are starting to use facebook and other social media websites. Children are simply unaware that the information they put up on these websites about themselves or their friends can be seen by millions across the world if proper privacy settings are not in place. Children, along with parents, who use these websites, must know that they themselves have a role to play in protecting their own privacy. They must be aware of all the risks involved when surfing the web or setting up accounts on websites. For example, if on Twitter, threats include shortened links that can lead you to potentially harmful websites. When you are in your e-mail inbox, threats include e-mail scams and attachments that get you to install malware and give up personal information that can then be used by the hackers who sent the e-mail.